



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2023, No. 10

October 2024

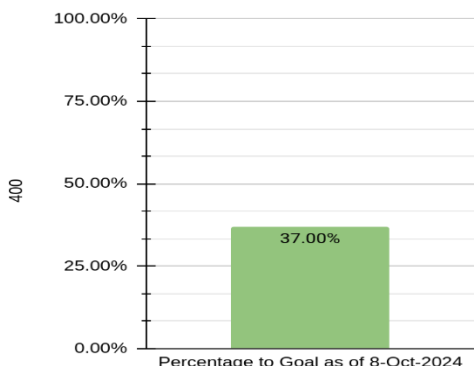
Raffle for Robert A. Rodriguez, K5AUW, Scholarship Fund Needs More Sales Jon April, KI5CSK

Objective: Raise enough for 2 \$1,000 scholarships for young hams each year to be awarded through ARRL,

We are 38 days from the November 14th 2024 raffle drawing for the Scholarship Fund and are only about 37% to sell all 400 tickets and 120 tickets left just to break even!

You can buy tickets at the October meeting and up to the night of the drawing at our November meeting.

Goal: 400 Tickets Sold



See the club website for more information.

The next meeting, October 10, 2024, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 . Program: Digital VS Analog Radio, by Harold Fleischer, AE5AS

Ham Radio Comes Through Again



Amateur Radio in the United States is a Federally established radio service under Part 97 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It constitutes a group of trained radio operators who can provide communications in emergency situations when other communication systems fail.

The most recent example of hams helping in emergencies is the response to the devastation caused by hurricane Helene. The hurricane swept ashore on the Florida Peninsula as a Category 4 storm, then proceeded through Georgia, South and North Carolina, parts of Tennessee and Virginia. The extremely heavy rains and high winds wreaked havoc, causing floods, mudslides and falling trees. An entire town was washed away. The death toll has exceeded 200.

As the storm hit, hams were already on the air passing hurricane-related traffic via "pop up nets" on VHF and HF. There are several sources for information so I will not repeat what they have published but will list the URLs so you can look them up. It makes fascinating reading. –

The photo is from a screen shot from CBS-17 in Raleigh, NC showing Van Lee, KM4TC working health and welfare traffic on both HF and VHF. **(Continued on Page 5)**

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
10	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		October 2024
TO							

Hello South Texas,

I have been reading about the devastation that Hurricane Helene unleashed. Currently, it is being reported that 225 people have lost their lives. In Avery County, North Carolina the flooding destroyed bridges and roads and almost the entire county is without electricity.

Stories are being told that Amateur Radio was the only way to get messages in and out of the hardest hit areas. Many TV, AM and FM stations are either without power or have been destroyed. I have not seen any reports about emergency service outages, but I suspect that there are many. Radio operators have passed many health and welfare messages and stepped up to help.

Now Hurricane Milton is targeting Florida. This looks like another bad storm for the Tampa area.

If you have not done so already, please start to prepare now by taking these emergency communications courses.

<https://www.arrl.org/emergency-communications-training>

Thank you for supporting emergency communications,

Paul Guido, N5IUT, President, San Antonio Radio Club

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation: Bill Craft, KD2HIQ — Surge protection. Previous club presentations are available at the club’s website.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no additions or changes, the minutes were passed without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT

- Reviewed some of the early history of the club. AARO will join us for winter field day.

Vice President (Interim)– Lloyd Swartz – KF5ZHW – He is planning a presentation in 2025 on WinLink for passing message traffic, particularly in emergency communication settings.

Secretary – Jack Bannin, N5JLB – The minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April, KI5CSK – No report.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – Board did not meet this past month.

Education and Training – Marvin “Marlo” Brown (KJ5BQV) & Travis Buhler (KI5TXG): Gathering resources related to training for dissemination.

Emergency Communications – Vacant – RACES was briefly activated during Hurricane Francine (<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/ham-radio-volunteers-serve-during-hurricane-francine>). ARRL South Texas Section (arrlstx.org) website has a story about how amateur radio was essential during Hurricane Beryl. Next ARES meeting will be held 10/1/24. The Emergency Operations Center at Brooks City Base will be replacing HF antennas when funding is approved. Emergency preparedness workshop coming. If interested, contact your city council representative’s office.

- Web Site – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ**
- Activities for August 2024**
1. Web Site-
 - a. Posted newsletters
 2. Groups.io
 - a. Updated membership list
 - b. Updated calendar
 3. Mail chimp -- Meeting notice
 4. Twitter
 5. Facebook -- Meeting notice

MEMBERSHIP			
Membership	As of 9/9/2024		
Paid: 152	New Members for 2024		
Mil: 6	First	Last	Call

Family Members: 18	David	Basile	
Radio Fiesta Free: 10	Jesse	Gutierrez	
Free License Exam: 29	Kyle	McMillan	
ARRL Members: 108	Arthur	Yanez	
Total Membership: 203			

POTA – No report

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Absent. Newsletter was distributed and posted to website on September 9, 2024. Invited members to contribute information, photos, and stories for the newsletter. The deadline is Monday prior to the meeting.

Field Day – Jon April: Club’s trailer will need the trailer’s lumber replaced soon.

Finance and Review – No Report

JOTA – Position vacant. October 19, 2024 is the next JOTA event. If someone is interested in volunteering, must complete Youth Protection Training course first. John Douglas is still involved with the event, and we can coordinate with him. JOTA will be held at the McGimsey Scout Park Cub Pavilion, 10810 Wedgewood San Antonio, TX 78213. We will be setting up the stations on Saturday the 19th from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Anyone wanting to participate can operate a station as much or little as they want. Any adult working will need to take the Youth Protection Training online and send John Douglas the certification. Information on requirements, map, etc. <https://w5sc.org/jota-volunteer-2/>

Centennial Committee – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – No report.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – Certificates handed out to volunteers from recent Radio Fiesta event.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P – No sessions scheduled until October 26, 2024 at the Leon Valley Public Library from noon to 2 PM. To pre-register, email hamtest@w5sc.org. Radio Operators of South Texas (ROOST//w5ros.org) in Floresville sponsors testing on the first Saturday of each month. Email k5vcr@ziplink-mail.com for more information or visit their website. AARO also tests in the odd numbered months of the year. Next testing session is scheduled for 9/21/24 (aa5ro.org).

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – No activity.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – November elections upcoming. If interested, contact president. More information will be released via GroupsIO.

Scholarship Committee – Tom – Awarded two scholarships this year. Letters of congratulations to recipients have been signed. Raffle tickets are still on sale. Only 400 total tickets will be sold. \$25 per ticket. One does not have to be present to win. Winning tickets will be drawn at the monthly club meeting on 11/14/24.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) – None.

New Business – None

Announcements –

- Club is pursuing hosting of an ARRL annual meeting on the 100th anniversary of the last time it was held in San Antonio.
- Winter Field Day – January 25, 26 2025. Joint effort with AARO. The SADRC is going to participate, as well.
- Next SADRC meeting is next Saturday. More info at sadrc.net.
- Tailgate 9/21/24 from 8 AM – 2 PM. \$5 donation to Encino Park Library to sell. No charge for buyers.
- Calendar of events available at the club's GroupsIO website.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:50 PM

Ham Radio Comes Through Again (Ctd)

As reports of damage and injuries started coming in, hams formed controlled nets to handle the traffic and direct rescue teams to the areas of greatest need.

One prominent ham, Tom Witherspoon, K4SWL, was right in the bad part, in Swannanoa, NC, which experienced considerable damage to the city. Tom's "QRPer" blog has a report of his experience. Falling trees damaged his house, but the roof remained intact.



1From Tom, K4SWL QRPer blog

Other trees blocked his drive and roads out of his area, with roads being washed out. His car was crushed by a falling tree.

Fortunately,

the house was safe from flooding and mudslides. His family had recently subscribed to a satellite internet service and the house has solar panels and battery backup for electricity. Tom distributed HTs among licensed and non-licensed family members and neighbors so they could stay in contact with each other. No cell phone nor regular internet service was available. You can see his comments here: [Aftermath... | Q R P e r](#)

Eastern Tennessee hams worked to restore key repeaters including the Mount Mitchell, N2GE, repeater. From its 6-thousand-foot location it provides very wide coverage of the storm-affected areas. There's a pretty good article in Amateur Radio Daily you can read here: [Ham Radio and the Aftermath of Helene \(hamweekly.com\)](#)

The Wired web page featured ham radio: [Through Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Amateur Radio Triumphs When All Else Fails | WIRED](#)

Ham-related organizations that key on emergency communications are the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service or RACES.

ARES is managed by the American Radio Relay League. RACES is an emergency radio service authorized in Part 97.407 of the [Federal Communications Commission](#) (FCC) rules and regulations governing [amateur radio](#) in the United States. ARES provides emergency communications in the conventional Amateur Radio Service without the need for an emergency declaration from the government or direction from the emergency management officials. One is amateur, one government oriented.

Another hurricane is hurtling toward Western Florida, likely the Tampa Bay area. Hams there will also play a big part dealing with the emergency aftermath.

Other URLs:

[Ham radio operators trying to help connect families after Helene - YouTube](#)

[Teen helps with Hurricane Helene recovery efforts | 11alive.com](#)

[In times of devastation many turn to old school tech to keep communication lines open \(msn.com\)](#)

San Antonio Radio Club Sends Congratulatory Letters to 2024 Robert Rodriguez, K5AUW Scholarship Winners

11 September 2024



Raj R. Gohil
K15TLO
7714 River Pass Drive
Pearland, TX 77581-1433

Hearty congratulations on being selected to receive the Robert A. Rodriguez K5AUW Scholarship!

The K5AUW scholarship is sponsored annually by the San Antonio Radio Club, one of America's oldest Amateur Radio Clubs. The scholarship is administered by the ARRL Foundation. We currently fund two scholarships each year.

You are always welcome to join us at one of our monthly meetings. You can find schedule and location on our Web site, www.w5sc.org.

We wish you great success in your studies, and we would like to know how you are doing at school.

Remember that the K5AUW scholarship is renewable. That is, you can apply again next year, through ARRL.

Sincerely,

Paul Guido
NSIUT
President

Harold C. Fleischer, III
AESAS
Chairman of the Board

Thomas P. O'Brien, Jr.
AB5XZ
Chair, Scholarship Committee

San Antonio Radio Club W5SC
w5sc.org
P. O. Box 34263
San Antonio, TX 78265-34263

Paul Guido
Harold C. Fleischer, III
TPOB

11 September 2024



James E. Ervin V
K15UXW
9520 Argyle Dr.
Austin, TX 78759-5210

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Paul Guido
Harold C. Fleischer, III
TPOB

Tech Nerd Trivia Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Let's start today with some tech-nerd trivia. What does the acronym URL stand for? Is it ... A.) Uniform Resource Locator, B.) Universal Retrieval Link, C.) Unified Reference Library or D.) User Request Log? Answer's at the end!

The answer: A.) Uniform Resource Locator. A URL is the web address for any resource on the internet — webpages, images, documents, whatever. Use this fun fact to win a few bets.

🔗 What do you call a dead URL? RIP. (Yeesh, I know.)

Newsletter Oct 2024

JC Smith, N5RXS, Bill Craft, KD2HIQ & XYL, Richard Garcia, K15ZZE attended an all-day Community Preparedness Workshop September 28, 2024 Sponsored by the City of San Antonio, Department of Emergency Management.

Some of the important takeaways get the Ready South Texas app which is an all-hazards overview of disaster information to help you prepare, plan and respond to disasters in your area. Using the Ready South Texas app you will be able to:

- Share your status with selected contacts with the push of a button
- Receive critical emergency alerts via push notification
- Get the latest news and weather for the South Texas area
- Start a personalized Emergency Preparedness and Communications plan

Visit readysouthtexas.gov or search for “Ready South Texas” in your phone app store to download



Also do you or your neighbors need help and don't know who to call? Here is free online help to find the services easily.

Need Help? Find it on SACRD.org



SACRD.org is a FREE online directory of thousands of compassionate services — help at your fingertips, *when you need it, where you need it.*

Need help and don't know who to call?



DIAL 2 1 1

We have trained specialists ready to connect you with services.

To learn more, go to **211Texas.org**

- Food and housing
- Child care
- Veterans assistance
- Mental health services
- Financial and legal
- Employment
- Aging and disability
- Disaster help
- And more

23D0005 • Product ID: 211TEX-1

TAILGATE –

The day started out cool then the heat and humidity returned, more tolerable than those 100-degree days.

We managed to raise \$60 for the library and it was turned in Monday, see response below.

Hi SARC!

Thank you for the generous donation to the Encino Library Friends Group. I have turned the donation over to the Friends, as well as sent them the letter you wrote. Thank you again.

Best,

Michelle Ricondo, MLIS (she / her / hers)
Branch Manager, Encino
City of San Antonio, San Antonio Public Library
210-207-9250 (office)





Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Coordinator

No report for October

December Test to be announced

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

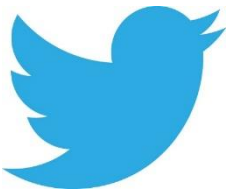
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.



Reminder: there are two active X (Twitter) accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

JOTA

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually on the third full weekend in October.

JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. JOTA 2023 was held at McGimsey Scout Park Cub Pavilion 10810 Wedgewood Dr, Castle Hills, TX 78213.

. Anyone wanting to operate a station next year need to do the BSA Youth protection Training (YPT) and complete BSA Health forms.

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, check the club web page, W5SC.org

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-570-0335

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:

Ned Lee, KG5US
RACES Bexar County
210-344-3481/210-391-8258

David Rice, NB5K
ARES Bexar County EC 210-367-8623

Radio Fiesta 2025

Radio Fiesta will be at Schertz Civic Center on June 6-7, 2025
Look forward to Radio Fiesta 2025 next year, save the date.

License Testing Dates for 2024

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

Field Day 2024

Field Day exercise, June 27 – 28 at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twenty first year. It was a great success. Start planning for FD 2025, *where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.*

SARC Meeting Dates for 2024

January 11, 2024
February 8, 2024
March 14, 2024
April 11, 2024
May 8, 2024
June 13, 2024
July 11, 2024
August 8, 2024
September 12, 2024
October 10, 2024
November 14, 2024
December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216 at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p. m. for supper